

# Marriages & Marriage Dissolutions

## Marriages

In 2005, 18,745 marriages occurred in Kansas, a decrease of 2.2 percent from the 2004 total of 19,174 marriages. ([Table 59](#))

The greatest number of marriages (3,483) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Geary county had the highest marriage rate of 19.0 marriages per 1,000 population. Clark county had the fewest marriages (9) and Osborne had the lowest marriage rate (3.7). ([Table 59](#), [Figure 37](#))

The Kansas marriage rate in 2005 was 6.8 marriages per 1,000 population, which was 15.0 percent lower than the 1996 rate of 8.0. The 2005 rate was 9.3 percent lower than the estimated U.S. rate of 7.5 marriages per 1,000 population. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 39](#))

More wedding ceremonies were performed in June (12.5 percent) than any other month in 2005, with July and May being the second and third most popular months. ([Figure 41](#))

First-time marriages for both partners made up more than half of the marriages in Kansas for the seventh consecutive year. In 2005, 55.3 percent of all marriages involved first-time partners. ([Table 61](#), [Figure 2](#))

Kansas couples are delaying marriage. In 1996, 12.0 percent of the brides and 4.6 percent of the grooms were under 20 years of age. However, in 2005, 8.1 percent of the brides and 3.2 percent of the grooms were under 20. ([Table 62](#))

The average age of all brides in 2005 was 29.9 years and that of grooms was 32.0 years. Women marrying for the first time averaged 25.0 years while first time grooms averaged 26.9 years. Of those persons who remarried during 2005, women were, on the average, 39.9 years old and men were 42.3 years of age. ([Figure 42](#))

## Marriage and Marriage Dissolutions (Cont.)

### Marriage Dissolutions

In 2005, 8,476 marriage dissolutions (8,246 divorces and 230 annulments) occurred in Kansas, a decrease of 3.2 percent from the 2004 total of 8,759. ([Tables 60](#) and [64](#))

The greatest number of marriage dissolutions (2,611) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Coffey county had the highest marriage dissolution rate (14.1) per 1,000 population. Wallace county had 2 marriage dissolutions in 2005. The lowest rate was in Johnson county with a marriage dissolution rate of 0.9 per 1,000 population. ([Table 60](#), [Figure 38](#))

The Kansas marriage dissolution rate in 2005 was 3.1 marriage dissolutions per 1,000 population, which was 26.2 percent lower than the 1996 rate of 4.2. The 2005 rate is the lowest since 1967. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 40](#))

Kansas has generally reported a higher marriage dissolution rate than the U.S. for most years since 1951. However, Kansas' rate in 1995 (4.3) was lower than the U.S. rate (4.4) for the first time since 1951. The Kansas rate in 2005 (3.1) was 13.9 percent lower than the U.S. rate (3.6). ([Figure 40](#))

The ratios of marriages to divorces for Kansas and the U.S. were both roughly 2 to 1, with Kansas at 2.2:1 and the U.S. at 2.0:1. ([Tables 59](#) and [60](#))

The most common age-group of wives involved in marriage dissolutions in 2005 was 25-29, while for husbands it was the 30-34 age-group. For couples of the same age-group, the most common age-group was 25-29. ([Table 63](#))

The average age at marriage dissolution in 2005 was 36.6 years for wives and 38.8 years for husbands, as compared to 34.7 years for wives and 37.0 years for husbands in 1996. ([Figure 43](#))

In 2005, 37.7 percent of marriages ending in divorce or annulment lasted four years or less. ([Table 64](#))

There were 7,886 minor children affected as a result of marriage dissolutions in 2005. At least one minor child was reported in half (50.7 percent) of the marriage dissolutions. ([Table 65](#), [Figure 44](#))

**Note:** The tabulation of divorce statistics is impacted by the completeness of reporting by District Courts in Kansas. Despite efforts to assure 100 percent reporting compliance, it has been determined by the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics that not all divorce and annulment certificates have been filed with the Center. The Center is unable to estimate how incomplete the reporting is. Users of marriage dissolution data should exercise caution before making any conclusions based on these data. The Center is obligated to report the data it collects, but recommends that any marriage dissolution data findings be accompanied by a statement that totals may not represent 100 percent of this vital event due to under-reporting.